

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR RH UK

SUBJECT: RHODESIA CONFERENCE: MUZOREWA'S DEC. 2 STATEMENT
ON THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT

THE MUZOREWA DELEGATION CIRCULATED TO THE PRESS THE
FOLLOWING PAPER AT THE OUTSET OF THE DEC. 2 INTER-
DELEGATION MEETING.

BEGIN TEXT:

BISHOP A. T. MUZOREWA'S STATEMENT

IN REPLY TO THE CHAIRMAN'S NOTE ON THE SHAPE OF THE
TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT

MR. CHAIRMAN,

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WE ARE PLEASED THAT WE HAVE NOW REACHED THE POINT, WHEN

DISCUSSIONS ON THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT MAY BE HELD IN SOME
DETAIL. FOR MY DELEGATION THIS IS THE REAL EXERCISE FACING
THIS CONFERENCE.

YOU HAVE INVITED US TO REACT TO THE PAPER YOU HAVE PRESENTED
AND WE SHALL DO SO.

AT THE OUTSET LET ME STATE OUR VERY GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT WITH
YOUR DOCUMENT. WE, AS A DELEGATION HAVE MADE IT CLEAR OVER
AND OVER AGAIN THAT OUR AUTHORITY SPRINGS FROM THE PEOPLE OF
ZIMBABWE, AND THAT WE SEE OURSELVES AS THEIR REPRESENTATIVES
AND NOT MERELY THEIR MOUTHPIECE.

OUR GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT WITH YOUR DOCUMENT IS THAT YOU FIND
NO PLACE WHATSOEVER FOR THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE TO EXPRESS THEIR
CHOICE. YOU IMPOSE A STRUCTURE ON THEM, IN WHICH THEY HAVE NO
SAY.

FOR US IT IS BASIC AND ESSENTIAL THAT EVEN THE TRANSITIONAL
GOVERNMENT BE A REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, AND THIS CAN ONLY
BE CREATED BY AN ELECTION ON A ONE MAN ONE VOTE BASIS. WE ARE
ADAMANT IN THIS RESPECT. WE KNOW WE SHALL BE MET WITH THE
REPLY THAT THIS GOVERNMENT IS ONLY A TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT OR
AN INTERIM ONE. IN OUR OPINION THIS DOES NOT DETRACT FROM OUR
PRINCIPLE IN ANY WAY WHATSOEVER.

WE STAND STEADFASTLY IN OUR DEMAND FOR A TEST OF PUBLIC OPINION
BEFORE THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT IS FORMED. THIS COULD BE A
RELATIVELY SIMPLE EXERCISE, AND WE ARE SUBMITTING OUR PROPOSALS
TO SHOW THIS TO BE SO. WE DO NOT ACCEPT YOUR CONTENTIONS THAT
IT IS NOT FEASIBLE TO DO SO.

ON THE DETAILS OF STRUCTURE WHICH YOU HAVE INDICATED IN
YOUR PAPER WE WISH TO MAKE A FEW BROAD COMMENTS AT THIS STAGE.
WE FEEL THERE WILL BE AMPLE OCCASION TO DISCUSS DETAILS LATER.

THE PROCESS OF DECOLONISATION IS NOT YET COMPLETE AND AT
THE STAGE OF THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT THERE WILL HAVE TO BE A
BRITISH PRESENCE. WE SEE THE BRITISH PRESENCE NOT ONLY AS A
CONSTITUTIONAL APPOINTMENT BUT ALSO AS AN APPOINTMENT TO END
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THE COLONISATION OF ZIMBABWE.

WE AGREE THAT EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS SHOULD BE
SEPARATE. BUT WE ARE UNAWARE AND ARE OF THE OPINION THAT THERE
MAY BE MANY WAYS WHEREBY THESE FUNCTIONS MAY BE DOVETAILED.
WE HAVE SUGGESTED IN OUR PROPOSALS A PROCESS WHICH WE CONSIDER TO
BE THE MOST SATISFACTORY, THOUGH THERE ARE OTHER POSSIBILITIES.
WE HAVE SUGGESTED TWO COUNCILS, AN EXECUTIVE AND A LEGISLATIVE

WITH IDENTICAL MEMBERSHIP. THIS PRODUCES AN EASE OF WORK AND DELIBERATION, AND REDUCES TIME DELAY AND ADMINISTRATION TO A MINIMUM.

WE ACCEPT THE BROAD OUTLINES OF FUNCTIONS AS SET OUT IN YOUR PAPER AND SHALL DISCUSS THESE IN MORE DETAIL SUBSEQUENTLY.

WE AGREE THAT THE PRESENT "PARLIAMENT" IN ZIMBABWE CAN PLAY NO ROLE WHATSOEVER IN OUR DECISIONS HERE, NOR IN ANY FUTURE LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES IN ZIMBABWE.

WE ACCEPT THAT FORMALITIES IN REGARD TO DISCUSSION AND LEGISLATION SHOULD BE REDUCED TO A MINIMUM BUT ENACTMENT MUST BE FORMAL EVEN THOUGH SIMPLE. IN THIS REGARD WE SUGGEST THAT AUTHORISATION UNDER SIGNATURE AND PUBLICATION WOULD BE SUFFICIENT.

OUR PLAN IN REGARD TO THE EXECUTIVE AND THE LEGISLATURE ALLOWS ALL PROCESSES TO BE REDUCED TO EXPEDITIOUS AND SIMPLE PROCEDURES.

WE WISH TO RETURN TO ZIMBABWE WITH ALL POSSIBLE SPEED BUT INSIST THAT THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT MUST BE A GOVERNMENT ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE.

MR. CHAIRMAN, WE NOW FORMALLY TABLE OUR PROPOSALS WHICH WE ASK YOU TO CIRCULATE AND MAKE A CONFERENCE PAPER.

FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF THOSE PRESENT WITH YOUR PERMISSION WE SHALL DISTRIBUTE COPIES NOW.

A. T. MUZOREWA
PRESIDENT, AFRICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL - ZIMBABWE
GENEVA - DECEMBER 2, 1976

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